

ASSAM STATE LEVEL ROUND TABLE ON

THEME:

**ASSAM'S PURSUIT FOR UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
ADDRESSING GENDER EQUALITY IN ASSAM AND IMPROVING GENDER EQUALITY SCORE (GOAL 5)|
ENABLING DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH (GOAL 8) &
FRAMING A PROGRESSIVE ASSAM'S NEW SKILL POLICY**

September 26, 2019 | Thursday | Hotel Taj Vivanta, Khanapara, Guwahati | 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM



ABOUT

A Multi-stakeholder day long round table meet, 'The Guwahati Round Table (TGR) 2019' was being organized on September 26, 2019 at hotel Taj Vivanta, Khanapara , Guwahati to discuss and deliberate on two key Goals of United Nations Global Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs 2030) specific to Assam context and in the light of the first NITI Ayog All India report on SDG Index score of States, wherein Assam State recorded a low score. The two goals discussed were ADDRESSING GENDER EQUALITY IN ASSAM AND IMPROVING GENDER EQUALITY SCORE (GOAL 5); and ENABLING DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH (GOAL 8) IN ASSAM & IN THE LIGHT OF PROPOSED ASSAM'S NEW SKILL POLICY.

During the Session I, the focus was on gender equality issues and challenges in Assam. Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls is a priority in Assam. The State government from time to time has embarked upon key policies and program frameworks to address issues in gender equality across the State. Nevertheless, there exist key challenges that require continuous attention of the State government, concerned departments and agencies, civil society, academic and skilling institutions, legal bodies and agencies to address and deal with various issues. There are specific discriminatory practices against women and girls including violence; trafficking and exploitation; Recognising and value unpaid care and domestic work; provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies; women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life; Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights; giving women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with laws; Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women; and having sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels. A highlight of these challenges is Assam scoring low score in UN SDG Goal 5 (Gender Equality scoring 36 / 100) in 2018 SDG All India Index Score by the NITI Ayog and UNDP. This session discussed on existing initiative and efforts, what are key further measures or steps required to address the above in the Assam to lead forefront of a 'Gender Equal' State in the country.



The Session II focused on UN SDG Goal (8) on 'Decent work and employment and in the light of proposed new skill policy of Assam'. The State of Assam is also committed to promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. It has taken numerous actions time to time towards this including having Skill Employment and Entrepreneurship Department and Assam Skill Development Mission. Nevertheless, State faces the challenge in having and promoting development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services; By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value; Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training; By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products; Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all; and develop and operationalize a mid and long drawn strategy for youth employment and implement policies and programmes. In this context, the latest efforts of the State through the Skill Employment and Entrepreneurship Department and Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM) is laudable in proposed formulating and implementing a new Assam's Skills Policy with provisions of assessment of the existing skill ecosystem of the State, learning from good practices, mapping and engaging stakeholders; State implementation plan for promotion of entrepreneurship, apprenticeship, and setting up relevant infrastructure (incubation centers, entrepreneurship cells, counseling and migration centers etc.). The effort is towards a Project Management Structure (PMU) for Implementation of Skill Policy, Mobilization Strategy,

Apprenticeship Policy, Employment Generation Policy, Entrepreneurship Policy, Placement and Post Placement Strategy, Convergence with the department and Liaison with Donor Agencies/PSU's/Private companies.



The round table was attended by 60 multi--stakeholder organisations, agencies, institutions and departments. The two sessions had key presentations from key agencies and institutes. The roundtable objectives and purpose was highlighted by Dr. Syed Sultan Kazi, Chief Executive, North East Development Foundation and Head (North East) Digital Empowerment Foundation. It was addressed by key speakers including Dr. Shiladitya Chatterjee, Advisor, UN SDG Goal Centre, Assam; Nandita Hazarika, ACS, State Mission Director, Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission Society, Assam; Chikimiki Talukdar, Chairperson, Assam State Commission for Women; Manoj Kumar Das, Head, Advisory and Consultancy and Business Facilitation Departments, NEDFi & Former Director, IIE, Guwahati Round Table Presentations / Speakers: Dr. Bhupendra Barman, Advisor, Mission Director, Assam Skill Development Mission. The key presentations were made by Dr. Rajdeep Singha, TISS Guwahati; Dr. Polly Vauquiline, Gauhati University; Dr. Annapurna Kaul, UNICEF; Dr. Madhurima Hazarika, Handique Girls College; Dr. Rousy K Baruah, ASRLM; Nilanju Dutta, NEN, Assam; Kaberi Sharma Bhattacharya, Social Welfare Department; Dr. R.M Dubey, Professor & head, Centre for sustainable development goals, AASC Khanapara; Dr. Saswati Choudhury, OKDISC; Dr. Polly Vauquiline, Department of Gender Studies, Gauhati University; Dr. Madhurima Hazarika, Handique Girls College; Dr. Irfan Ullah, Assam institute of Management; Lakhimi Baruah, MD & Founder, The Konoklota Mahila Urban Cooperative Bank Jorhat, Assam; Debasmita Ghosh, State Director, Human Rights Law Network,

Guwahati State Chapter; Bhaswati Goswami, Communications Officer, Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research; Dr. Amrit Borah, COO (Skills) Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission; Partha Patwari, Executive Director, CML, Tata Trusts, Manoj Das, UN Women, and Panchayat women presidents from Dimoria Block of Kamrup Metro District, Assam.

The Guwahati Round Table 2019 was organized by North East Development Foundation, Digital Empowerment Foundation, National Foundation for India, and Assam Civil Society Network for SDGs (ACT4SDGs), with technical support from UNDP, Institute of Bio-Resource & Sustainable Development (Dept of Science & Technology, Govt. of India) and Association of Social Media Professions and Development Today Magazine.


